

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Mayra Morales, I am 30 years old and a resident of Hartford. I am a member of *Hartford Deportation Defense*. I support **HB 6616: An Act Relating to the Expansion of HUSKY Health Benefits for Persons Ineligible Due to Immigration Status**.

In my home, my children have medical insurance, but my husband and I do not. A year ago, I began a battle with a serious condition on my breast. I was being denied a much needed MRI because I do not have insurance. Without medical insurance and the need for an MRI, time was valuable. I had to try and find the way to be heard. I was able to apply for a program that covered my costs, but I have had difficulty being able to cover the follow up expenses, because without work pay stubs, you cannot solicit the funds. The first thing that I think of when I am sick or in need of medical care is how am I going to pay the bill. Most of the time, I choose not to seek medical attention and take over the counter medication. I tolerate the pain until it's intolerable and I have no other choice but to seek medical attention. If I had access to medical insurance, the financial stress and worry would not be there.

I'm here supporting **HB 6616** because we need everyone to have access to health insurance. This law will cover my daughter, but all my children need me to be healthy, and the government should cover me as well.

Thanks for your time,

Mayra Morales
lkermendez91@gmail.com